

- twin track

IN AUGUST 1994, IN RECOGNITION OF THE POTENTIAL WHICH THEN EXISTED , AND IN ORDER TO ENHANCE THE DEMOCRATIC PEACE PROCESS , THE LEADERSHIP OF OGLAIGH NA H-EIREANN TOOK THE INITIATIVE AND ANNOUNCED A COMPLETE CESSATION OF MILITARY OPERATIONS.

WE NOTED THEN THAT A SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT WOULD ONLY BE FOUND AS A RESULT OF INCLUSIVE NEGOTIATIONS. OUR INITIATIVE WAS AIMED AT CREATING A CLIMATE WHICH WOULD ENCOURAGE THIS. WE ALSO NOTED THE OTHERS, NOT LEAST THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT , HAD A DUTY TO FACE UP TO THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES.

IT IS A MATTER OF PROFOUND REGRET THAT RATHER THAN FULFILLING ITS RESPONSIBILITIES THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT , PRESENTED WITH THIS HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY , HAS SOUGHT ONLY TO FRUSTRATE MOVEMENT INTO INCLUSIVE NEGOTIATIONS AND HAS ERECTED AN ABSOLUTE BARRIER TO PROGRESS WITH ITS UNTENABLE AND UNATTAINABLE DEMAND FOR AN IRA SURRENDER.

THIS DEMAND, WHICH HAS BEEN ELEVATED INTO A PRECONDITION FOR THE COMMENCEMENT OF ALL PARTY POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS BLOCKS THE INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE ESSENTIAL IF THE CAUSES OF CONFLICT ARE TO BE REMOVED . IT IS ALSO A DEMAND WHICH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS STRIDENTLY AND REPEATEDLY MADE EVEN OVER THE COURSE OF THE LAST WEEK.

WE NOTED THAT BRITISH PRIME MINISTER JOHN MAJOR AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE THE TWIN TRACK APPROACH, ACTUALLY REJECTED IT AS A MEANS OF REMOVING PRECONDITIONS. IT IS ALSO OBVIOUS THAT MR MAJOR IS ACTIVELY ENCOURAGING THE UNIONIST PROPOSITION OF A RETURN TO STORMONT AND ACTIVELY REINFORCES THE UNIONIST LEADERSHIPS REFUSAL TO ENGAGE MEANINGFULLY IN THE SEARCH FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

BRITISH BAD FAITH AND UNIONIST INTRANSIGENCE HAS RAISED A HUGE QUESTION MARK OVER THE POTENTIAL OF THE TWIN TRACK APPROACH.

AS WE STATED ON SEPTEMBER 29TH, THERE IS NO QUESTION OF OGLAIGH NA H-EIREANN MEETING THE LUDICROUS DEMAND FOR A SURRENDER OF IRA WEAPONS EITHER THROUGH THE FRONT OR THE BACK DOOR.

P O NEILL

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